

wherein said first and second optical fibers have been connected by fusion splicing at a joint being accommodated in said optical cable.

7. (Amended) An optical cable according to claim 2, wherein said joint has been subjected to heat treatment and re-coated subsequent to said fusion-splicing [operation].

10. (Amended) A method of installing an optical cable, comprising the steps of:
 preparing a first optical cable having a first optical fiber having a positive chromatic dispersion at a signal light wavelength and a second optical fiber having a negative chromatic dispersion at the same wavelength, said first and second optical fibers having been connected by fusion splicing to form a joint being accommodated in said first optical cable;

preparing a second optical cable accommodating a third optical fiber having a positive chromatic dispersion at said signal light wavelength and a fourth optical fiber having a negative chromatic dispersion at the same wavelength;

installing said first and second optical cables on land; and

jointing said first and second optical cables in such a way that the first optical fiber and third optical fiber are connected together by fusion splicing and the second optical fiber and fourth optical fiber are connected together by fusion splicing.

11. (Amended) A method of installing an optical cable, comprising the steps of:
 preparing a first and second optical cables each having a first optical fiber having a positive chromatic dispersion at a signal light wavelength and a second optical fiber

having a negative chromatic dispersion at the same wavelength, each ~~said~~ respective pair of first and second optical fibers having been connected by fusion splicing to form a joint being accommodated in said respective optical cables;

installing said first and second optical cables on land; and

jointing said first and second optical cables in such a way that the first optical fibers from each said optical cable are connected together by fusion splicing and the second optical fibers from each said optical cable are connected together by fusion splicing.

12. (Amended) An optical transmission line, comprising:

a first optical cable having a first optical fiber having a positive chromatic dispersion at a signal light wavelength and a second optical fiber having a negative chromatic dispersion at the same wavelength, said first and second optical fibers having been connected by fusion splicing to form a joint being accommodated in said first optical cable;

a second optical cable accommodating a third optical fiber having a positive chromatic dispersion at said signal light wavelength and a fourth optical fiber having a negative chromatic dispersion at the same wavelength;

said first and second optical cables being installed on land and jointed together in such a way that the first optical fiber and third optical fiber are connected together by fusion splicing and the second optical fiber and fourth optical fiber are connected together by fusion splicing.